

REVIVAL: MORE THAN A MEETING

LESSON 1: THE ROAD TO REVIVAL

2 Chronicles 7:14 (KJV)

Introduction

- ❖ When most people hear the word revival, they think about a week of special services, guest preachers, and good singing.
- ❖ While God certainly can move during those times, revival is much more than a meeting.
- ❖ A meeting can be scheduled. Revival cannot.
- ❖ Revival is God's work of restoring His people to fellowship with Him, renewing their passion for Him, and empowering them to live for His glory.
- ❖ Throughout Scripture, revival has never started with the world. It has always begun with God's people.
- ❖ Revival is not about getting God to move. Revival begins when God's people return to Him.

Background

- ❖ 2 Chronicles emphasizes God's faithfulness to His covenant and the spiritual condition of Judah's kings.
- ❖ Solomon completed the Temple David desired to build, marking one of Israel's greatest spiritual moments - 2 Chron. 2-5.
- ❖ At the Temple dedication, the glory of the Lord filled the house, and the priests could not minister - 2 Chron. 7:1-3.
- ❖ Solomon prayed that if God's people sinned but later repented and returned to Him, God would hear and restore them - 2 Chron. 6:24-42.
- ❖ God answered Solomon by affirming the Temple while warning that future disobedience would bring His discipline - 2 Chron. 7:11-22.
- ❖ Before Israel ever needed revival, God gave them the way back through humility, prayer, seeking Him, and repentance.
- ❖ 2 Chronicles 7:14 reveals God's pattern for restoring His people whenever they drift from Him.

Setting of the Text

- ❖ God is speaking directly to Solomon following the dedication of the Temple.
- ❖ Israel was experiencing one of the greatest spiritual victories in its history.
- ❖ God knew His people would eventually drift from Him.
- ❖ Before God changes a nation, He first changes His people.

What Is Revival?

Revival Is...

- ❖ Returning to God and restoring fellowship with Him - James 4:8; Acts 3:19.
- ❖ Renewing our passion for God and His Word - Ps. 85:6; Hab. 3:2.
- ❖ Recommitting ourselves to live in obedience to God's will - John 14:15; 1 John 2:3-6.

Revival Is Not...

- ❖ Limited to an emotional experience.
- ❖ A scheduled church meeting.
- ❖ Temporary excitement.
- ❖ A substitute for repentance and obedience.

THE PATH TO REVIVAL**Revival Begins with Humility – "...shall humble themselves..."**

- ❖ Humility is acknowledging our dependence upon God rather than ourselves - James 4:6-10.
- ❖ Pride says, "I can handle it." Humility says, "Lord, I need You." - Prov. 3:5-7.
- ❖ God resists the proud but gives grace and honor to the humble - James 4:6; Prov. 15:33.
- ❖ Jesus is our greatest example of humility and submission to the Father's will - Phil. 2:5-8.

Revival Grows Through Prayer – "...and pray..."

- ❖ Prayer is the language of dependence and the lifeline of every believer - Jer. 33:3.
- ❖ Prayer changes us before it changes our circumstances - Luke 18:1.
- ❖ Revival is sustained through a consistent life of prayer - 1 Thess. 5:17.
- ❖ God moves when His people seek Him together in prayer - Acts 4:31.
 - The disciples continued in one accord in prayer before Pentecost - Acts 1:14.

Revival Deepens as We Seek God's Presence – "...and seek my face..."

- ❖ God desires relationship more than religious activity - Ps. 27:8.
- ❖ Seeking God's face means pursuing His presence, not merely His blessings - Ps. 105:4.
- ❖ God's presence must become our greatest pursuit - Matt. 6:33.
- ❖ God rewards those who diligently seek Him - Heb. 11:6.
 - David longed for God's presence above everything else - Ps. 63:1.

Revival Continues Through Repentance – "...and turn from their wicked ways..."

- ❖ Repentance is more than feeling sorry; it is a change of heart that produces a change of direction - Acts 3:19.
- ❖ We cannot expect God to bless what we refuse to surrender - Prov. 28:13.
- ❖ God gladly forgives and restores those who sincerely return to Him - Isa. 55:6-7; 1 John 1:9.
- ❖ Genuine repentance always produces changed living - Matt. 3:8.

GOD'S PROMISE

"...then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."

2 Chronicles 7:14

God Promises to Hear

- ❖ God hears those who humbly seek Him with sincere hearts - Ps. 34:15; Isa. 66:2.
- ❖ God invites His people to call upon Him with the assurance that He will answer - Jer. 33:3.
- ❖ Those who seek God wholeheartedly will find Him - Jer. 29:12-13.

God Promises to Forgive

- ❖ God forgives those who genuinely confess and forsake their sin - 1 John 1:9; Prov. 28:13.
- ❖ God's forgiveness restores fellowship that sin has broken - Ps. 103:10-12.
- ❖ God's mercy is available to all who sincerely return to Him - Isa. 55:6-7.

God Promises to Heal

- ❖ God restores what sin has broken and revives those who return to Him - Jer. 30:17; Hos. 6:1.
- ❖ God heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds - Ps. 147:3.
- ❖ God is able to restore what has been lost when His people return to Him - Joel 2:25.

God's Promises Require Our Response

- ❖ God's promises should never be separated from God's conditions.
- ❖ God's blessings are experienced through obedient hearts - Deut. 28:1-2.
- ❖ Hearing God's Word must be followed by obeying God's Word - Luke 11:28; James 1:22.

Key Truth

Revival doesn't begin when the preacher arrives. Revival begins when God's people decide to return to God.